Disinvestment in National Fertilizers, Bhatinda

2797. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of profits made by National Fertilizers Limited, Bhatinda, during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to disinvest the public sector undertaking;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the employees union, Bhatinda has made any representation in this regard; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken thereon, together with any reply sent to the National Fertilizers Employees' Union, Bhatinda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Losses incurred by Bhatinda Unit NFL during the last three years are as under:—

	Rs. crore
1999-2000	01.43
2000-2001	26.67
2001-2002 (Provisional)	37.52

(b) It has been decided to disinvest 51 per cent of the GOI-held equity in NFL.

(c) It is the policy of the Government to bring down its equity in all non-strategic sector PSUs to 26 per cent or lower. The fertilizer PSUs have been classified as "Non-core sector enterprises".

(d) Employees' union of the Bhatinda unit has been making representations against the decision to disinvest Government holding in NFL.

(e) The Management of NFL has advised the union that the process of disinvestment will be in the interest of the company and it will not affect the employees adversely.

Off loading of stake in NFL

2798. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to off-load 51 per cent of its stake in the National Fertilizers Limited to a strategic investor;

(b) whether the necessary bids for this off-loading have been received; if so, the names of the companies who have submitted quotations; and

(c) whether these bids have been processed by Government; if so, the details of decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Transparency in Drug Price Fixation

2799. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's drug price fixing procedure is not transparent and pharmaceutical manufacturers have raised objections in this regard;

(b) if so, whether Government are actually considering to bring out a new drug policy, to make price fixing transparent;

(c) if so, whether functioning of the NPPA would be restructured; and

(d) if so, the extent to which prices of drugs would be reduced?